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ABSTRACT

Teachers in general are hired in conformity with an assumed standard, and are expected to reflect a conventional morality that corresponds to the government's ideologically sanctioned model of behavior. This book explores the situation of the lesbian teacher and her disposition not to reveal her sexual orientation. It is set in the Canadian context of the early to middle 1980s and draws primarily on the experiences of 18 women employed by the Ontario public school system. The following chapters explore their situations; (1) "Homosexuality in Perspective: The Discourse"; (2) "Women in Teaching: A Short History"; (3) "Theoretical Framework"; (4) "Methodology"; (5) "Discovering Lesbian Identity"; (6) "Lesbians in School"; (7) "Implications of Coming Out in the Classroom"; (8) "Consequences of Being a Lesbian at School"; and (9) "Lesbian Teachers: Dilemma, Difference, and Devotion." A conclusion makes it clear that the reality of these teachers' lives remained one of wariness. Lesbian teachers usually cannot "come out" at work, but there is a prevailing tolerance if they do "not rock the boat." (Contains 283 references.) (SLD)

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